

Education Cabinet

Kentucky Board of Education

Department of Education

(Amendment)

704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program.

RELATES TO: KRS [~~156.031~~] 156.070, 156.160

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: [~~KRS 156.031 requires that administrative regulations relating to statutes amended by the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act be reviewed, amended if necessary, and resubmitted to the Legislative Research Commission prior to December 30, 1990;~~] KRS 156.070 authorizes the Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] Education to prescribe such courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems necessary for the common schools; and KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] Education to adopt administrative regulations determining the courses of study for the different grades and the requirements for graduation from offered courses. [~~A Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued to students completing a Commonwealth Diploma Program. The purpose of such a diploma and program are to encourage high academic achievement in Kentucky high schools; to encourage more of the capable students to attend college; to improve the working relationship between high schools and~~

1 ~~colleges and universities; and to allow students to gain college credit prior to attending~~
2 ~~college.]~~ This administrative regulation implements a Commonwealth Diploma Program
3 and sets forth the ~~[conditions and]~~ criteria under which a Commonwealth Diploma shall
4 be issued.

5 Section 1. (1) The Kentucky ~~[State]~~ Board of ~~[for Elementary and Secondary]~~ Education
6 shall award to each student in the public schools of this state completing a
7 Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma. This diploma shall be
8 printed by the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to the appropriate district
9 upon verification of program completion to the Department of Education by the local
10 district.

11 (2) A ~~[Each]~~ diploma shall be issued in the name of each student so identified.

12 (3) Verification to the Department of Education ~~[shall be on forms supplied by the~~
13 ~~Department of Education and]~~ shall be submitted in a timely fashion so as to provide for
14 awarding of the Commonwealth Diploma at regularly scheduled graduation ceremonies
15 ~~[,said forms being incorporated herein by reference and available for inspection, copying,~~
16 ~~and obtaining from the Office of Instruction, 18th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero~~
17 ~~Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday].~~ Those
18 students receiving Commonwealth Diplomas shall be cited as recipients at graduation
19 ceremonies.

20 Section 2. Until the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a
21 Commonwealth Diploma shall include ~~[are as follows]~~:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education; and [-]

(2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary [~~Higher~~] Education in 13 KAR 2:020.

~~[Minimum Precollege Preparation requirements are as follows:~~

~~(a) Language arts four (4) units (English I, English II, English III, and English IV);~~

~~(b) Mathematics—three (3) units (Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry and one (1) elective;~~

~~(c) Science—two (2) units (Biology I or Chemistry I, or Physics I, and one (1) elective;~~

~~and~~

~~(d) Social Studies—two (2) units (including World Civilization and U. S. History).]~~

(3) (a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, as hereinafter designated and which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Descriptions published by the [~~booklets of the~~] College Entrance Examination Board [~~, such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which may be obtained from the College Entrance Examination Board~~]:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);

1 3. Foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish);
2 and

3 4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language,
4 history, computer science, political science, music, or art); or

5 (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at
6 least four (4) courses, as hereinafter designated and which contain essential content as
7 described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course descriptions published
8 by [booklets such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which
9 may be obtained from] the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.:

10 1. Language A, the student's first language English, - one (1) course;

11 2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from
12 biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics);

13 3. Language B, a foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, or Spanish);
14 and

15 4. One (1) additional IB or AP course.

16 (4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas
17 specified in subsection (3) of this section without regard to score.

18 Section 3. Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a
19 Commonwealth Diploma with an Academic focus shall include:

20 (1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including
21 all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305
22 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

1 (2) (a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of
2 at least four (4) courses from at least two content areas which contain essential content as
3 described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Descriptions published by
4 the College Entrance Examination Board; or

5 (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of at
6 least four (4) courses in at least two content areas which contain essential content as
7 described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course descriptions published
8 by the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.

9 (3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas
10 specified in subsection (3) of this section, with one passing score consisting of a three (3)
11 or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination
12 received prior to senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to
13 process the Commonwealth Diploma; and

14 (4) A composite score of at least 1200 on the mathematics and verbal sections of the SAT
15 or a composite score of at least 24 on the ACT.

16 Section 4. Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a
17 Commonwealth Diploma with a Career and Technical focus shall include:

18 (1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including
19 the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305
20 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

21 (2) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) in at
22 least two (2) AP or two (2) IB courses;

(3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least two (2) of the AP or IB areas specified in subsection (3) of this section, with one passing score consisting of a three (3) or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination received prior to senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to process the Commonwealth Diploma;

(4) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) in at least one (1) dual credit technical course;

(5) Receive a Skill Standards Certificate; and

(6) A composite score of at least 1200 or higher on the mathematics and verbal sections of the SAT or a composite score of at least 24 on the ACT.

Section 5. (1) [Section 3. During the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years,] The Kentucky Department of Education shall reimburse to local school districts the costs of required AP and IB examinations for all students successfully completing the [aforementioned]

criteria established in this administrative regulation. [Beginning with the 1989-90 school year,] (2) Reimbursement shall [will] be contingent upon a student's receiving a

[specified] minimum [composite] score of three (3) on the [three (3)-required] AP

examination or a minimum score of four (4) on the IB examination. [This requirement

~~shall be phased in over a four-year period, with said minimum composite score starting at~~

~~five (5) in 1989-90 and being raised by one (1) each school year until it reaches a~~

~~minimum score of eight (8) in 1992-93.]~~ Reimbursement funds shall be sent for

distribution to local districts once each year on the basis of documentation supplied by

the district.